

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 232 - Saudi Arabia

18-24 March, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	123,902,242	2,727,837	7,235,154	154,875
Last Week	120,383,919	2,664,386	6,972,925	151,561
In 7 days	3,518,323	63,451	262,229	3,314

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	386,300	375,471	6,624	4,205	627	14,763,869
In 7 days	2,801	2,110	39	-	-	307,386
17/3/2021	381	240	6	3,688	564	47,139
18/3/2021	391	263	5	3,811	574	44,257
19/3/2021	382	271	6	3,916	587	37,402
20/3/2021	367	277	7	3,999	584	34,727
21/3/2021	404	387	4	4,012	595	44,161
22/3/2021	410	366	5	4,051	617	53,823
23/3/2021	466	306	6	4,205	627	45,877

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (1,189), Eastern (541), Makkah (436), Hail (113), Al Qassim (104), Northern Borders (86), Madinah (81), and Asir (69).
- MoH: all citizens and expatriates 16 years of age and above can take the COVID-19 vaccines. No deaths related to taking COVID-19 vaccines recorded. More than 70% of those who registered received a dose of the Corona vaccine. So far, Over 3.5 million doses of vaccines have been administered.
- 29,191 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures in 1 week during the period from 14 - 20/03/2021.
- COVID-19 vaccines will be mandatory for all workers in tourist accommodation facilities, public transport, gyms and sports centres' effective from May 13.
- MoH: Status of those recovered from coronavirus infection will be "immune" for six months on the Tawakkalna application.
- More than 10 million domestic and foreign pilgrims have so far performed Umrah since the gradual resumption of Umrah service on Oct. 4, 2020. Domestic pilgrims between the ages of 18 - 70 are allowed to perform Umrah. No Umrah permit for even vaccinated domestic pilgrims aged above 70.
- New research highlights risks of separating new-borns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic, see link.
- WHO made an announcement regarding the safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine reiterating that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh its risks and recommends continuing its use, see link
- WHO publishes WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19, see link
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, see link.
- WHO launches Global COVID-19 Clinical Platform Case Report Form (CRF) for Post COVID condition, see link
- WHO publishes a guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, see link.

IMPORTANT LINKS

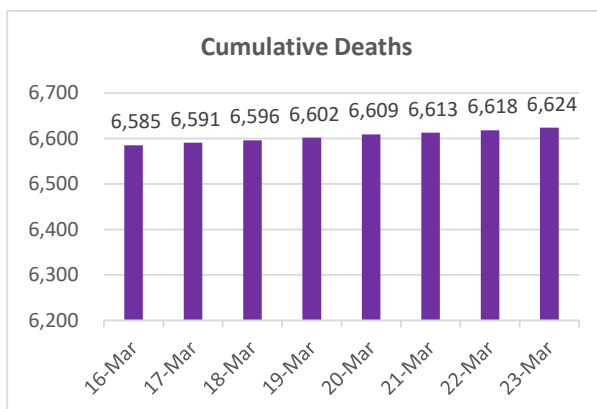
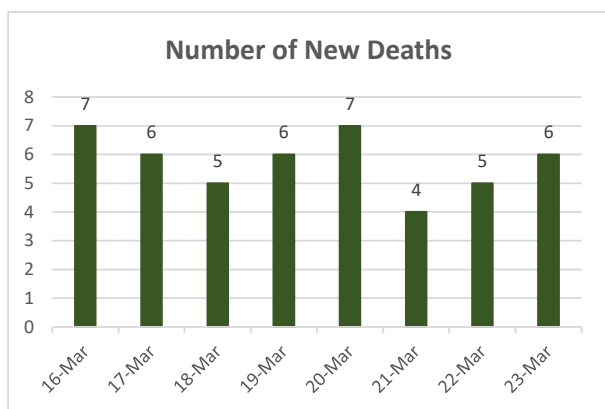
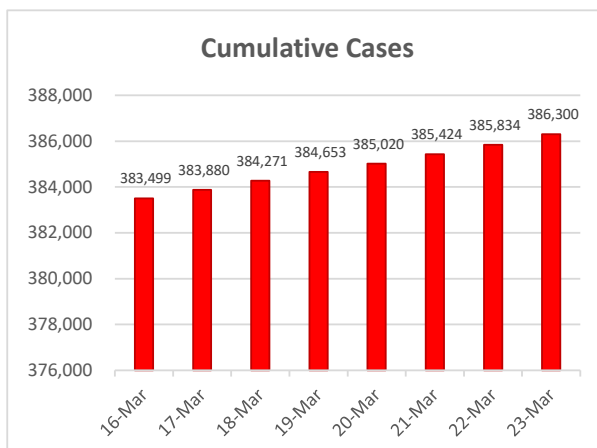
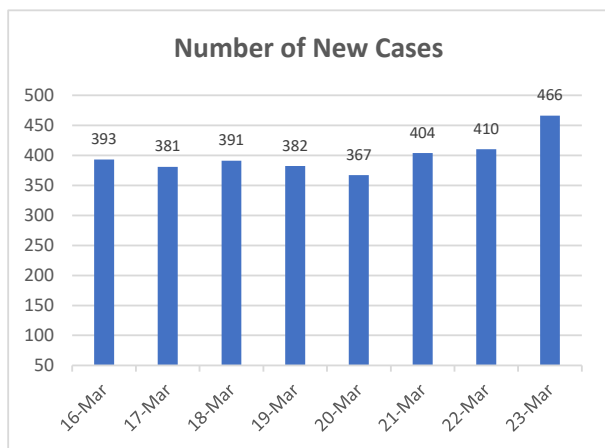
- **MoH COVID-19 updates:** <https://twitter.com/saudimoh>
- **WHO's COVID-19 global situation reports:** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>
- **WHO's COVID-19 dashboard:** <https://covid19.who.int/>
- **MoH COVID-19 dashboard:** <https://covid19.my.gov.sa/ar/Pages/default.aspx>
- **New research on risks of separating new-borns:** [New research highlights risks of separating new-borns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic \(who.int\)](#)
- **WHO reiterates recommendation to continue using the AstraZeneca vaccine:** [WHO statement on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine safety signals](#)
- **WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-prophylaxes-2021-1>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the Janssen vaccine:** [Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S \(COVID-19\) vaccine: interim guidance, 17 March 2021 \(who.int\)](#)
- **WHO's post COVID clinical platform case report form (CRF):** https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/3rd-edl-submissions/who_crf_postcovid_feb9_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14_1&download=true
- **A guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/a-guide-to-contracting-for-health-services-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Summary of statement by WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine:

So far, more than 20 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been administered in Europe and more than 27 million doses of the Covishield vaccine (AstraZeneca vaccine by Serum Institute of India) have been administered in India. The subcommittee met virtually on 16 and 19 March 2021 and reviewed clinical trial data and reports based on safety data from Europe, the United Kingdom, India, and Vigibase, the WHO global database of individual case safety reports. Based on a careful scientific review, the subcommittee came to the following conclusions:

- * The AstraZeneca vaccine continues to have a positive benefit-risk profile, with tremendous potential to prevent infections and reduce deaths.
- * The available data do not suggest any overall increase in clotting conditions following administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Reported rates of thromboembolic events after COVID-19 vaccines are in line with the expected number of diagnoses of these conditions. These conditions occur naturally and are not uncommon. They also occur as a result of COVID-19. The observed rates have been fewer than expected for such events.
- * It is not certain that the reported cases have been caused by vaccination. The European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance and Risk Assessment Committee has reviewed 18 cases out of a total of more than 20 million vaccinations with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Europe. A causal relationship between these rare events has not been established at this time.
- * Adequate education should be provided to health-care professionals and persons being vaccinated to recognize the signs and symptoms of all serious adverse events after vaccinations, so that people may seek and receive prompt and relevant medical care and treatment.
- * The subcommittee recommends that countries continue to monitor the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines and promote reporting of suspected adverse events.
- * The subcommittee also agrees with the European Medicines Agency's plans to further investigate and monitor for these events.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- The National Focal Person for COVID-19 is Dr Abdullah Asiri, Assistant Deputy for Preventive Health, MoH, email: AbdullahM.Asiri@moh.gov.sa